

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 /120 W
-----005386 271849Z /43

R 271607Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7232
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM UNHRC EG
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS
- COMMISSION MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 70504, (B) STATE 72085

SUMMARY. GOE ALSO ASSESSES POSITIVELY HRC MEETING AND ATTRIBUTES NEW INTEREST LARGELY TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION. MAIN DIFFERENCE WITH U.S. IS OVER HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHICH GOE OPPOSES ON POLITICAL GROUNDS THAT IT COULD BE MANIPULATED. EGYPT IN PROCESS ESTABLISHING NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. GOE BELIEVES ITS POLICIES TOTALLY COMPATIBLE WITH U.S. IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD WITH EXCEPTION THOSE AREAS"EXPLOITED"BY ISRAEL, E.G. JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM USSR. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 25 POLCOUNS REVIEWED 34TH SESSION OF THE UNHRC (REFTELS) WITH MFA DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT AMRE MOUSSA AND SECOND SECRETARY MS. AMARA, WHO WAS ONLY DELEGATE SENT FROM CAIRO TO ASSIST
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AMBASSADOR SHAFEI, AND SOLICITED THEIR VIEWS.

2. IN GENERAL, GOE HAS SAME POSITIVE ASSESSM AJ2 S SSION AS USDEL, ALTHOUGH IT BELIEVES NEW TREND BEGAN WITH 33RD SESSION. GOE BELIEVES NONALIGNED COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE STRONG INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS AND IT ATTRIBUTES THIS IN LARGE MEASURE TO

IMPORTANCE AND IMPETUS GIVEN TO HUMAN RIGHTS BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION. MS. AMARA FOUND THE THREE DELS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES INCREASINGLY ON THE DEFENSIVE AND ABLE TO EXERCISE LITTLE INFLUENCE IN UNHRC.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER. ONLY SUBJECT ON WHICH THERE WAS STRONG DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITH US WAS OVER HIGH COMMISSIONER. MS. AMARA SAID SHE DID NOT THINK IT WAS COMPLETELY ACCURATE TO SAY THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER CONSIDERED SINCE THIS WAS ONLY ONE ITEM AMONG MANY

DISCUSSED IN THE WORKING GROUP AND SHE CLAIMED USDEL EFFORT TO HAVE PROPOSAL SENT BACK TO UNGA HAD TO BE WITHDRAWN FOR LACK OF SUPPORT. MOUSSA, WHO SERVED MANY YEARS IN UN, INTERJECTED TO SAY THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER IDEA IS OPPOSED BY ENTIRE ARAB BLOC AND MOST OF NAC, BECAUSE IT IS BELIEVED THIS POST COULD BE MANIPULATED IN A MANNER THAT WOULD TAKE DECISION-MAKING POWER AWAY FROM THE HRC. FURTHERMORE, MANY STATES (INCLUDING EGYPT) ARE CONVINCED THAT PROPOSAL ORIGINATED 10 OR 12 YEARS AGO FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS WHO HAVE PARTICULAR INTEREST IN EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM THE USSR TO ISRAEL. MOUSSA EMPHASIZED THAT EGYPT WAS NOT PREPARED TO HAND ISRAEL THIS "VICTORY" AT TIME WHEN ISRAEL IS "TOTALLY INTRANSIGENT" ON REACHING ME SETTLEMENT. HE IMPLIED THAT FOLLOWING ME SETTLEMENT, OPPOSITION TO HIGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSIONER POST WOULD DISSIPATE. FOR TIME BEING, HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEARLY A NON-STARTER.

4. RE PROPOSALS TO LENGTHEN HRC SESSION OR HAVE TWO A YEAR, GOE POSITION IS THAT CURRENT ARRANGEMENT IS SUFFICIENT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF OTHER UN FORUMS AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS.

5. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS. EGYPT STRONGLY SUPPORTED BOTH OF THESE PROPOSALS AND WAS IN FACT A CO-SPONSOR OF INDIAN RESOLUTION. MOUSSA SAID EGYPT WAS IN PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND MFA IS ASSISTING AND ENCOURAGING IT.

6. MOUSSA PRAISED EFFECTIVENESS OF USDEL AT GENEVA. HE ALSO SAID GOE STRONGLY ENDORSES UN HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS AND MACHINERY. HOWEVER, IN GOE VIEW, ISRAEL HAS MADE A POLITICAL WEAPON OUT OF QUESTION OF EMIGRATION OF RUSSIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL. AS LONG AS ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO BE TOTALLY "INTRANSIGENT", GOE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND TO THIS EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN

RIGHTS TO ENHANCE ISRAEL'S MILITARY STRENGTH. THIS
ISSUE ASIDE, HE BELIEVES EGYPTIAN POL ICIES ARE TOTALLY
COMPATIBLE WITH THAT OF U.S. IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO09410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780133-0205
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780323/aaaaatdn.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 70c312bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 70504, 78 STATE 72085
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3198124
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS - COMMISSION MEETING
TAGS: SHUM, EG, UNHRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/70c312bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014